

# PREMIER ISSUES FIRST FEELER

No Reason Why United States and Ally of Germany Cannot Get Together for Settlement of Differences, Statesman Declares Before the Reichsrath.

London, Jan. 25—"It is obvious to me," said Count Czernin, "that an exchange of views between America and Austria-Hungary might form the starting point for a conciliatory discussion among all the states which have not yet entered peace negotiations."

Commenting on the 14 points in President Wilson's war aim speech, Count Czernin said that Austria-Hungary and America were virtually in agreement regarding the great principles for new arrangements after the war.

Austria-Hungary and America, he said, were two belligerents whose interests were less incompatible than they seemed. He characterized the speech of President Wilson regarding war aims as an important advance toward the Austro-Hungarian viewpoint, which contained some proposals in which Austria-Hungary would gladly join.

## OFFICIALS SEE LITTLE GAIN IN CZERNIN SPEECH

Washington, Jan. 25.—Based on the short cabled outlines of the speeches of the German and Austrian premiers to their respective parliaments, the opinion is expressed by officials here that no substantial advance toward the final peace sought by all belligerents has resulted from these declarations.

It is true that expressions of Count Czernin, the Austrian premier, appear to be more conciliatory in tone than previous utterances from that quarter, but beyond vague statements that the possibilities of peace negotiations are contained in address of President Wilson and Premier Lloyd-George, there is no suggestion of a surrender of any of the extreme contentions of the military elements in the Central states.

The German premier's address indeed is couched in the language of a victorious general and it is noted that nowhere does he specifically abandon the claim for indemnity and territory. In fact, from the cabled abstract it appears he has become even more uncompromising and militaristic in his position than he was when he assumed office and first addressed the Reichstag.

## DANBURY & BETHEL RAILWAY NAMED IN FORECLOSURE SUIT

Suit for foreclosure upon property in Danbury under a mortgage given in 1916, has been filed in the Superior Court by Aaron T. Bates against Martin H. Griffin and others. Included among the defendants are the Danbury & Bethel Street Railway Co. and the receiver, J. Moss Ives, the railway company claiming an interest in the property. The note was originally for \$8,994.15, dated March 9, 1916, and made payable to Taylor Bates. It is now the property of the plaintiff as administrator. Permission had to be obtained from the Superior Court to cite the street railway as a party to the suit.

## FIVE VERMONT STORES BURN

Fair Haven, Vt., Jan. 25.—Five stores in the business section here were destroyed by fire today, the loss being estimated at \$40,000.

# WON'T GIVE UP ALSACE DECLARES VON HERTLING

Berlin, Jan. 25.—Chancellor Von Hertling, in his speech in the Reichstag yesterday, declared Germany did not want annexation, but the question of northern France could be discussed only between France and Germany.

He asserted that there could be no talk of session of Alsace-Lorraine.

Count von Hertling in his Reichstag address, according to a Central News dispatch, said:

"We hope soon to conclude an agreement with Ukraine, which would be mutually satisfactory, especially from an economic point of view."

When on Jan. 3, the chancellor continued, the period expired for the co-operation of the Entente nations in the peace negotiations, Germany was no longer bound by its offer to the Entente and had a free path to the peace negotiations with Russia. In these negotiations Germany then felt herself not bound by the Russian proposals for a general peace, he asserted.

The first four points in President Wilson's speech, respecting which Chancellor Hertling said, "I have no objection," related to abolishing of secret diplomacy, free navigation of the seas outside territorial waters, subject to international laws; removal of economic barriers and establishment of equal trade communications between nations and reduction of armaments.

The fifth point, in regard to which the chancellor said some difficulties would be made, provided for adjustment of all colonial claims, based on the principle that the interests of the population concerned must have equal weight with the claims of the government whose title is to be determined.

Regarding points 9, 10 and 11 in President Wilson's speech, Count von Hertling said he must leave the answer in the first place to Austria, but that where German interests were concerned they would be defended unflinchingly.

"Instead of the reply which was expected but which was not forthcoming," Chancellor von Hertling continued, "two declarations were made by enemy statesmen—Premier Lloyd-George's speech and President Wil-

# GERMANY SQUASHES REVOLTS

Rebellious Mine-Sweepers Killed or Imprisoned at Kiel.

London, Jan. 25.—A German naval lieutenant, who has deserted from Kiel, according to an Amsterdam dispatch, says that dissatisfaction among the men of the German fleet is much more serious than in the army. He asserts that there have been important revolts, generally among the crews of mine-sweepers.

Three weeks ago a squadron of mine sweeping trawlers entered Hamburg after an expedition in which three men were lost in an encounter with the British and one of the trawlers was damaged. Before the men were permitted to go ashore, according to this account, they were notified that they must report back for duty within an hour. They asked time for rest. The Hamburg commandant refused, whereupon 150 men declined to obey the order.

An hour later a lieutenant named Wagner arrived and ordered the men to return to their boats. They refused. The lieutenant swore at the men and struck two of them. He was thrown into the water and was left to drown.

The commandant, who had watched the mutiny, sent a motor boat carrying two machine guns, which were fired into the crowd of sailors. The killing and wounding 73. The officers were arrested and sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from five to 20 years.

## HOLCOMB ORDERS GENERAL EARLY CLOSING HOURS

Hartford, Jan. 25.—The seriousness of the fuel situation caused Gov. Holcomb today to issue a proclamation establishing curtailed hours of business for Connecticut from Jan. 29 to March 20, inclusive.

The proclamation provides that places of retail business shall not open before 7 a. m. and shall not remain open after 7 p. m. on week days with exception of Saturdays, Wednesdays and days preceding holidays. A special rule provides that saloons, hotel bars, club bars, tobacco stores and drug stores may remain open until 10:30 p. m. The hour of 10:30 p. m. is also established as a closing hour on all week days except Saturdays or days preceding holidays for all places of public entertainment and for pool and billiard rooms, bowling alleys and barber shops. The proclamation, however, urges that theaters and other public entertainments places continue their voluntary efforts to finish the evening performances at 10 p. m. or as near that hour as possible.

## PASSENGER ASKS \$2,000 DAMAGES OF TROLLEY CO.

Two suits against the Connecticut Co., in which damages are claimed for accidents, have been filed in the common pleas court. One involves damage to an automobile, and the other personal injuries.

Margaret L. Burns complains that on June 27 last she was a passenger on a trolley car in Stratford avenue which stopped at East Main street to allow passengers to alight. As she was about to leave the car it was suddenly started, she says, and she was thrown to the ground, suffering many injuries, some of which are permanent. She asks damages of \$2,000.

Louis J. Stanchak asks \$2,000 for damage done to an automobile truck by a collision with a trolley car in Barnum avenue October 15 last. He claims negligence upon the part of the trolley crew caused the accident.

## BUSY SELECTING ACCOUNTANTS FOR NATIONAL ARMY

With more than 30 applications from draft registrants applying for positions as accountants in the National Army, through the voluntary Chairman Edward C. Spargo of the Fourth Division board, was busy today trying to select the 10 required. The men will be chosen according to their qualifications. It is expected the selected ones will be announced tomorrow.

The local boards are rapidly completing the classification system and will send out the last of the white cards tomorrow or Monday.

According to present plans all Class 1-A men will be examined in the new High School building on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the first week in February.

## ZONE SYSTEM IS PLAN FOR COAL DISTRIBUTIONS

Washington, Jan. 25.—A zone system of coal distribution to be administered by J. D. A. Morrow was being mapped out rapidly by officials of the railroad and the fuel administration today as the next step necessary to speeding up deliveries by clearing the traffic congestion.

Mr. Morrow, organizer and secretary of the National Coal Association who was put in charge of coal distribution and apportionment by the fuel administration last night, will supervise all pooling and transportation arrangements. Formal announcement of the details of the zone plan, which also will be under his control, is expected soon.

Officials expressed the belief that the proposed system will be effective in eliminating long and cross hauls and make another serious shortage this winter impossible.

# NEAR-PANIC IS CAUSED BY BLAST

Attempt to Thaw Out Frozen Can of Dynamite Nearly Kills Workers.

Thousands of residents in the vicinity of Seaview and Boston avenues, Shelton and Ogden streets, were thrown into a state of terror when their homes were shattered by an explosion near the Remington Arms plant shortly before noon today. Wild rumors, in which German plots and Zeppelin bombs were attributed as the cause, were quickly spread over the territory, but were squelched when investigation disclosed that a can of dynamite had exploded while being thawed out.

The concussion cracked every window in a score of houses on the west side of Seaview avenue, between Boston avenue and Ogden street. The windows were boarded up immediately by carpenters employed by the T. J. Parry Co. In some miraculous manner 75 construction men working in the vicinity escaped injury.

The explosion occurred on the site of the proposed new storage shed for the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co., on the west side of Seaview avenue, between Boston avenue and Ogden street.

Officials of the T. J. Parry Co. refused to discuss the subject with newspapermen. The Times reporter's investigation revealed that Parry workmen were thawing out a can of dynamite but was unable to learn what actually caused the explosion.

The Parry Co. superintendent refused to state the amount of the explosive contained in the can, but it was learned that if the thawing had been in progress for any length of time the entire section would have been wrecked as the container held several sticks of the deadly explosive.

The dynamite was to have been used in blasting a foundation for the new building.

Immediately after the explosion the police of the Second precinct were notified and Policeman Daniel J. Ryan was detailed to the scene. He found a can of dynamite, especially among the foreigners, who had run into the streets fearing that other explosions would follow.

## BAKER TO TELL WHAT HAS BEEN DONE FOR ARMY

Washington, Jan. 25.—Secretary Baker asked Senator Chamberlain today to arrange an occasion at which all members of congress disposed to attend may do so and hear a statement in reply to the senator's charges of inefficiency in the army.

Secretary Baker sent to Senator Chamberlain a letter which read in part:

"The questions which have arisen with regard to the conduct of the war require an explicit statement from me for the information of your committee and generally for the information of congress and the country."

"I feel that in justice I owe such a statement to the splendid officers and men of the army, who have fought themselves and labored with self sacrifice and, as I think, success, in the building of a great army."

"It is due also to the great number of men of business and of affairs who have accepted the invitation of the war department to come to Washington and brought their business experience, their talents and their judgment to the work in hand. And I think the people of the country are entitled to have at large a summary of what has been done by America in the war."

The secretary requested the committee to arrange an opportunity for him to make such a statement at a time and a place fixed as to enable all senators and representatives to attend.

## NO SHORTAGE OF FACTORY HANDS SAY UNION MEN

New Haven, Jan. 25.—George F. Mordeca, as president of the Connecticut Federation of Labor, and Ira M. Onburn, as president of the New Haven Trades Council today issued a public statement to the effect that there is no labor shortage in the state and alleging that while appeals are being made for women to enter munition and other plants, hundreds of men are refused employment.

The statement is a reply to what has been termed a "periodic appeal" to women to take places in industrial plants. It is pointed out that there is no objection to the employment of women provided they are placed on the same standards as men who occupy like positions and receive the same scale of wages. It is claimed that 40 per cent. of the mechanics needed in munition plants of this city are among the unemployed.

## OWN MINES SUNK TWO DESTROYERS OF GERMAN NAVY

Copenhagen, Jan. 25.—The mine field responsible for the sinking on Sunday of the German destroyers A-78 and A-79 was of German origin, according to the 17 men from the crew of the A-79, the only survivor from the two vessels.

# GREAT ECONOMY IN WOOL URGED IN CONNECTICUT

Careful Use Necessary to Protect Our Fighting Forces at Front

Hartford, Jan. 25.—Greater economy in the use of wool by manufacturers and consumers is urged in a statement received from Washington by the commercial economy division of the committee on industrial survey, Connecticut Council of Defense, which points out that particular attention should be paid to the use of wool in the clothing that are luxuries rather than necessities. Such articles, it is added, should not be manufactured at this time and should not be bought or asked for by consumers.

The statement from Washington says in part:

"In order to protect the welfare of our fighting forces and to supply the essential needs of the civilian population, the country cannot endure, under present circumstances, the use of wool and cloth in any unnecessary way. Inasmuch as over one-half the wool manufactured in this country is brought in ships, every possible saving, no matter how small, must be made. These many small savings will economize very largely in the total amount of raw wool required to clothe the civilian population."

## ABANDON EFFORT TO MAKE FLEMISH OFFICIAL SPEECH

Germans Meet With Little Success In Driving Wedge Between Belgian Peoples

Amsterdam, Jan. 25.—After more than three years of effort the German authorities in Belgium have to admit the failure of their attempt to drive a wedge between the two races and languages in Belgium. The unity of Belgium still exists, and there are signs that the Germans have given up, at least for the time being, their attempt to break it up.

The authority for this statement is the German propagandist weekly in Holland, the Toekomst, which states that the present policy of the Governor-General in Brussels is "more moderate," and that "Berlin approves this policy as a means of gaining peace." The article concludes by advising the advocates of the former German policy to "steer a middle course and give up their flourishes of rhetoric."

The attempts of the Germans to force the Flemish language on Brussels and Antwerp are declared to have completely failed and the government has had to confess itself beaten. The supporters of the German scheme among the Belgian population are known as "Achtmeesters" and are very unpopular among the majority of their fellow citizens. An Activists "demonstration" was arranged in Brussels recently and was much exploited in the German press at the time. But according to the Echo Belge, the demonstration was a fiasco.

"Instead of 3,000, the audience was only 1,000," says the newspaper. "Moreover, one-third of these were Dutch and another third German, partly in uniform. The procession to the market place was attacked as soon as noticed by the crowd, notwithstanding the presence of the local police. Next time there may be a riot. Now the Activists are beginning to divide into Maximalists and Minimalists and are becoming very difficult for their German bosses to handle."

## PACKERS' FILES DISCLOSE PLANS TO FIGHT PROBE

Washington, Jan. 25.—How the packers worked against federal investigation of their industry, as proposed in congress during 1916, and how they kept in touch with political affairs in Washington in an effort to forestall passage of an investigation resolution, was disclosed today by documents from the files of Swift & Co., read into the record of the federal trade commission inquiry.

The name of Senator Wadsworth of New York who, Francis J. Henry said, is listed as an investigator in Swift & Co., was brought into the testimony in a letter from Louis F. Swift, appealing for help "in connection with a matter which is pending in congress."

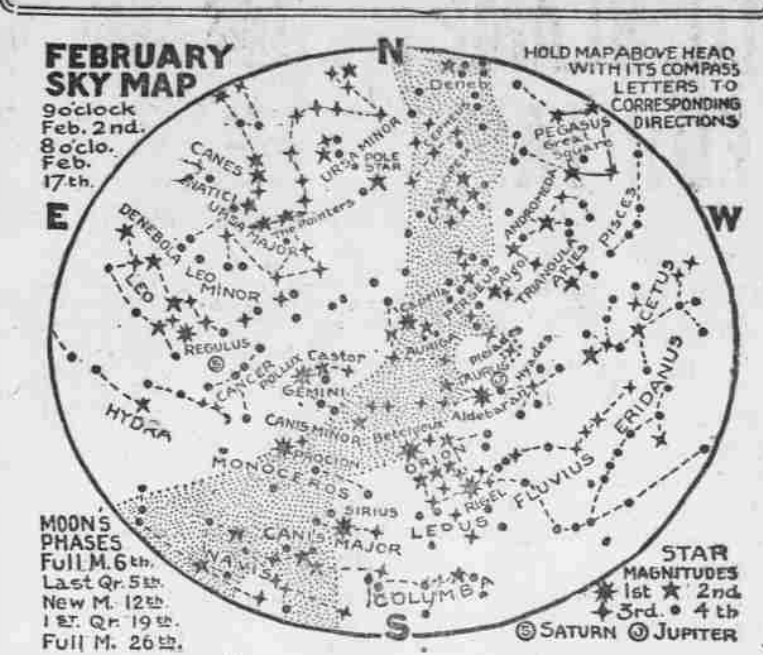
## ALIEN ENEMIES MUST OBTAIN 4 PHOTOS FOR U. S.

Hartford, Jan. 25.—A telegram received today from Washington at the office of the United States marshal here calls attention to the law requiring enemy alien registration and particularly to the provision that no fees are to be charged or gratuities accepted from registrants by registration officers for administering oaths or for any other reason. The chief registrar, the telegram says, should be notified of any violation. The marshal also directs attention to the requirement that each registrant should supply himself in advance with four photographs of himself not more than three inches by three inches, showing a front view and upon a light background, on which the registrant's signature must appear.

## LONDON AROUSED BY PROJECT TO CLOSE ITS PORT

London, Jan. 25.—The proposal to close the port of London to merchant shipping has created strong opposition from London commercial interests. A deputation of London commoners has been appointed to confer with the shipping controller.

# The Heavens In February



(By Dr. C. S. Brainin, of the Columbia University Observatory Staff.)

The area of sky lying between the zenith and the southern horizon contains the very finest aggregation of stellar beauty that the celestial sphere can show. Practically in the zenith is Capella, the bright pride of the constellation of Auriga, the Charioteer, a pure white star which is almost as brilliant a luminary as Vega of the Lyre. Capella is rated by the astronomers as of the magnitude "plus one-fifth," approximately twice as bright as the standard first magnitude. Of all the stars visible to us who live in the northern extra-tropical latitudes it ranks third.

Our scientists have discovered a number of very interesting things about Capella. Its distance from the earth is so great that, in spite of the fact that it appears insignificant compared with our sun, it is really a star which is radiating heat and light 200 times as strongly as our sun. The actual distance is computed to be no less than 2,700,000 astronomical units. This unit is a small distance itself, being no less than the distance of the earth from the sun, or 93,000,000 miles. Multiply those two figures together and you will have the distance in miles separating us from Capella. No wonder that so much of the radiated energy of the star is lost to us. Furthermore the spectroscopic has shown that what appears as a single star to us is really a system composed of two, revolving about their common center of gravity in about one hundred days.

Castor and Pollux

East of Auriga are the heavenly twins, Gemini, the two brightest stars of which are called Pollux and Castor. They are very nearly of the same brightness, but Pollux has a little the better of it. Several hundred years ago, when the astronomers of that day made a new classification of the stars, they called the brightest of each group "alpha," the next brightest "beta," and so on down the Greek alphabet. They called Castor "Alpha Gemini," which shows that at that time Castor must have been the brighter of the two, whereas today the reverse is the case. It is not admissible to think that the old astronomers were mistaken, for they were a set of very keen and able observers. The modern astronomers have the great advantage over them of possessing instruments such as they hardly dared even to dream of.

The only conclusion which we can properly arrive at is that the relative brightness of the two stars has undergone a change. It is an extremely interesting case, as changes in brightness or position among the so-called fixed stars are very rare indeed. The astronomers of succeeding ages will have the great advantage of the accurate and complete data which is being kept today. Judging by past history they will also have instruments of far greater precision and speed of observation than those of those which we possess. To them the twins may be very far from deserving that name, for we do not know whether it is Pollux or Castor that has undergone a change.

In spite of not being the brighter of the two, Castor is the more interesting, for what appears as well as one single body is really made up of four. Even a telescope of modest dimensions can separate the two major components, but it was only by means of the far more delicate spectroscopic tests that each one of these in turn was found to be composed of two separate parts.

Orion the Great Hunter

It will pay you well to become thoroughly familiar with the great group of Orion, since it is without doubt the most impressive as well as one of the best known constellations in the entire firmament. Its appearance is so characteristic that there should be no difficulty in learning and recognizing it at any time that it is above the horizon. At the time of our map this month it is on the meridian about half way between the zenith and the horizon in the best possible position for observation. There you will see three bright stars about equidistantly placed on a line practically parallel to the horizon; to the northward, a little higher in the sky, is the reddish Betelgeuse, to the southward the brilliant star Rigel. All these stars are of the group Orion. The first mentioned three stars are the famous Belt of Orion, the star Betelgeuse marks the hunter's right shoulder and Rigel his left foot. Hanging from his belt is the jeweled scabbard of the hunter, the sword, the fainter line of stars running off from the southern end of the belt in the general direction of Rigel.

If your eyes are sharp and the atmospheric conditions particularly good, you may notice that one of these stars has a scabbard in a bit hazy; it is a nebula, the Great Nebula in Orion, than which no finer sight is revealed by the astronomer's telescope. If you have even a small instrument at your disposal and turn it upon this object, you will be amply rewarded by the view of a cloud-like mass, itself faintly luminous and easily distinguished from the black background of the sky beyond. In the area occupied by it are many small stars, among them a group of four called the Trapezium, which very likely may be intimately connected with the structure and development of the nebula and its possible evolution into a system of planets and one or more suns resembling our own.

## ARMY NEEDS 2,000 VETERINARIANS IN MEDICAL CORPS

Washington, Jan. 25.—The army medical corps issued today a call for enlistment of 2,000 specially selected men for veterinary service. They must be either below or above draft age and will be assigned to veterinary hospitals with "service overseas soon."

Veterinary students, agricultural students, farmers, stable men and others accustomed to handling horses are desired, particularly. They will be enlisted as private, but opportunities of advancement to non-commissioned grades are exceptional.

## WATER PLANTS TO MERGE

Hartford, Jan. 25.—The public utility commission heard reasons today for the consolidation of the New Haven Water Co., the West Haven Water Co., and the Branford Water Co. There was no opposition to the petition. The New Haven Water Co. owns the stock of the two other companies and the purpose of the consolidation was stated to be to concentrate the management and simplify its operations.

## RUBLE'S DECLINE ABETS FAMINE IN NORTH OF RUSSIA

Petrograd, Jan. 25.—"Petrograd is on the verge of famine. Our purpose now is to make it come gradually, not suddenly; to have an organized famine, so to speak," said Madame Smith-Falkner, a member of the food control committee, in an interview yesterday with the Associated Press in connection with the reduction of the bread allowance.

"What are the chief causes of the scarcity of food in Russia," she was asked.

"The war, civil war and depreciation in the value of the ruble," she replied. "Forty months of war has proved too much for a country so backward in economic affairs and railroad organization."

"As to Petrograd in particular, the movement of General Kaledines and the differences with Ukraine have made it impossible to obtain foodstuffs from the southern provinces, which are the main source of food supply for northern Russia. As to Siberia, we have been getting grain thence all the time, but recent snow storms have delayed the arrival of trains, and consequently there is an acute shortage."

"Is there plenty of grain in Russia now?"

"Yes, but the peasants do not wish to sell it, because paper money is worthless. They cannot buy anything for the ruble now."

"How are you going to remedy the situation?"

"We shall declare certain manufactured articles, such as clothing and metal products, to be state monopolies, and exchange them for grain. The peasants will thus have the things they need most and so shall we."

## GERMANY'S AIMS ARE UPHELD BY VON KUEHLMANN

Amsterdam, Jan. 25.—Replying to Premier Trojky's statement on Russia's peace aims, Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, German secretary for foreign affairs, declares that in principle that Gen. Hoffman's aims were the same as those advanced on Christmas. Throughout the negotiations, he said, the Germans had kept in view the ethnological boundaries, but also the actual boundaries of the old Russian empire. He said the Central powers intended to permit free self definition, scoffing at the theory that the presence of troops would prevent this. Regarding evacuation, Dr. Kuehlmann said it must be taken up with the newly-born self-defined governments.

"If Gen. Hoffman expresses the terms more strongly," said Dr. Kuehlmann, "it is because a soldier always expresses stronger language than diplomats. But it must not be deduced from this that there is any dissension between us regarding the principles, which are one whole and well thought out."

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